



09 August 2017

In reply please quote

FOI Request: FA 17/04/00843

File Number: ADF2017/43531

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request – decision on request

This letter refers to your request received on 21 April 2017 seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

In your request you sought access to the following documents:

1. *The exact number of Syrians that were granted resettlement in Australia, by gender, age and religion.*
2. *How many of them had an Australian sponsor?*
3. *Furthermore, from the ones that had Australian sponsors, how many were direct relatives such as a brother/sister/parent/child and how many were sponsored by an approved proposer?*
4. *Any policy and guidelines regarding how these applications were processed and any agreements or quotas specifically made with the UNHCR.*
5. *The exact date of when these 12000 resettlement places were filled.*

Following consultation, on 16 May 2017 the scope of your request was revised as follows:

1. *For the Syrians in the additional 12,000:*
 - a. *The number that were granted resettlement in Australia, by gender, age and religion*
 - b. *The number that were granted resettlement in Australia that had an Australian sponsor*
 - c. *For those that had Australia sponsors, the number that had direct relatives such as a brother/sister/parent/child and how many were sponsored by an approved proposer*
 - d. *Any policy and guidelines regarding how these applications were processed and any agreements or quotas specifically made with the UNHCR.*
2. *The exact date of when the additional 12,000 resettlement places were filled.*
3. *For the Syrians in the 2015-16 Humanitarian Programme*
 - a. *The number that were granted resettlement in Australia, by gender, age and religion*
 - b. *The number that were granted resettlement in Australia that had an Australian sponsor*
 - c. *For those that had Australia sponsors, the number that had direct relatives such as a brother/sister/parent/child and how many were sponsored by an approved proposer*
 - d. *Any policy and guidelines regarding how these applications were processed and any agreements or quotas specifically made with the UNHCR*

Following consultation, 8 July 2017 the scope of your request was revised as follows:

1. *For the Syrians in the additional 12,000:*
 - a. *For those that had Australia sponsors, the number that had direct relatives such as a brother/sister/parent/child and how many were sponsored by an approved proposer*
 - b. *Any agreements or quotas specifically made with the UNHCR regarding these applications*
2. *For the Syrians in the 2015-16 Humanitarian Programme*
 - a. *For those that had Australia sponsors, the number that had direct relatives such as a brother/sister/parent/child and how many were sponsored by an approved proposer*
 - b. *Any agreements or quotas specifically made with the UNHCR regarding these applications*

Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate Departmental records.

Information considered

In reaching my decision, I have considered the following:

- The terms of your request
- The *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- Departmental files identified
- The Australian Information Commissioner's guidelines relating to access to documents held by government
- Consultations with the relevant business areas in the Department

Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available for your reference from www.legislation.gov.au/Browse/ByTitle/Acts/InForce/0/0/Principal

Documents in scope

Section 17 of the FOI Act provides that where an agency can produce a written document containing the information in discrete form by the use of a computer, and the work required would not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations, the agency shall deal with the request as if it were a request for access to a written document so produced.

The Department has created one document that is relevant to the scope of your request. The document is provided at **Attachment A**.

Decision

My decision is to release the document in full that falls within the scope of your request.

Reasons for decision

Part 1a and 2a:

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Humanitarian Programme Management Section has used its computer system to produce one documents that contains the requested information. The data produced in this document was in possession of the Department on 21 April 2017 on receipt of your FOI request. My decision is to release the document in full.

Part 1b and 2b:

The Department has undertaken reasonable searches to identify any documents that would be relevant. No documents (electronic or hard copy) are in possession of the Department that fall within the scope of your request.

I have consulted with the relevant business area in the Department, the Syria/Iraq Initiative and Operational Planning and Performance Section (SIIOPP). SIIOPP have advised that the Department does not have any document that is an agreement or quota specifically made with the UNHCR regarding applications for Syrians in the 2015-16 Humanitarian Programme and the additional 12,000 places.

The Department does not have any fixed quota with the UNHCR but has ongoing discussions on the number of referrals that may be required throughout the programme year.

As no documents exist that fall within the scope of part 1b and 2b of your request, I am refusing your request for access under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

Review rights

Internal review

If you disagree with my decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of my decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision-maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

Freedom of Information
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Or by email to: foi.reviews@border.gov.au

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of my decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a review request to the OAIC, please see FOI fact sheet 12 '*Freedom of information – Your review rights*', available online at www.oaic.gov.au.

How to make a complaint about the handling of your FOI request

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner if you have concerns about how the department has handled your request under the FOI Act. Information about how to submit a complaint is also available at www.oaic.gov.au.

Contacting the FOI Section

If you wish to discuss this matter, you may contact me using the details provided below.



Refugee and Humanitarian Programme Branch
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
Email: foi@border.gov.au

Attachments

- Attachment A – Documents Released